

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 AGR-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3653

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, SO

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: 1976 REPORTING REQUIREMENT

REF: A) STATE 45319, B) 75 MOGADISCIO A-19

1. AS POINTED OUT REFAIR, SIAD REGIME SHOWS LITTLE RESPECT FOR FREEDOMS OF SPEECH AND ASSEMBLY AND FREEDOMS FROM ARBITRARY ARREST AND DETENTION. TO GUARD NATION AGAINST POLITICALLY OR SOCIALLY UNDESIRABLE BEHAVIOR, GSDR HAS CREATED LARGE AND ACTIVE SECURITY NETWORK AUGMENTED BY LOOSE COLLECTION OF INFORMERS AND OPPORTUNISTS WHO REPORT ON PART-TIME BASIS. EXPRESSION OF OPINION CRITICAL OF REGIME CAN RESULT IN ARBITRARY ARREST, DETENTION AND IMPRISONMENT. POLITICAL OFFENDERS ARE TRIED BEFORE NATIONAL SECURITY COURT, AN INSTITUTION NOTED NEITHER FOR ITS FAIRNESS NOR ITS INDEPENDENCE OF POLITICAL AUTHORITIES.

2. DESPITE REGIME'S PROCLIVITY TO ROUND UP ACTUAL OR SUSPECTED DISSIDENTS, THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT SUCH PERSONS ARE SUBJECTED TO CRUEL OR UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT. REGIME CLEARLY PREFERS SOCIAL AND POLITICAL REHABILITATION TO BRUTALITY OR MURDER. INDEED, ALL THOSE IMPRISONED UPON SIAD'S ACCESSION TO POWER IN 1969 HAVE BEEN RELEASED EVEN THOUGH, TECHNICALLY, SOME HAD BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF CRIMES PUNISHABLE UNDER SOMALI

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PENAL CODE. IN ADDITION, SOME 438 STUDENTS BARRED FROM SCHOOLS

FOR THREE YEARS FOR REFUSING TAKE PART IN 1974-75 RURAL
DEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN HAVE BEEN EXCUSED AND ALLOWED TO
RESUME STUDIES.

3. IN BRIEF, THEN, WHILE SOMALIA FAR FROM MODEL OF OPEN
SOCIETY, REGIME IS BETTER THAN MOST IN ITS TREATMENT OF
THOSE IT IMPRISONS. UNLIKE SITUATION IN A NUMBER OF OTHER
COUNTRIES, MOST ALL SOMALIS IMPRISONED FOR POLITICAL REASONS
EVENTUALLY GET OUT, USUALLY SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.

4. REPORT CONTAINED IN EMBASSY'S A-19 OF MARCH 9, 1975
(REF B) ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOMALIA STILL APPLIES.
LOUGHRAN

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